Hongkong. 3. febry. 1858.

Dear Sir,

Through the kindness of an old friend of mine, the Rev. J. W. Johnson, who is returning to the United States, I am enabled to forward you a packet of plants collected by me principally in this island, though a portion were gathered at Amoy – the Flora of which has not been so carefully investigated. They are at present in excellent condition; and, where the specimens are scanty, it is not owing to parsimony on my part, but because I have no more in my possession at the present time. I have carefully done them up in oiled paper – and I therefore trust they will reach you in good preservation & order.

of the U.S. I make no doubt that you possess from your numerous correspondents a sufficient stock of duplicates to render this application devoid of inconvenience. I had the pleasure of seeing the other day a proof sheet of an enumeration from your pen of some plants collected in Japan by Drs. Morrow & Williams. If you would be kind enough to supply me with a copy of this & of your list of Mr. Charles Wright's collections in China & Japan when out, I should esteem it a great favor, & my London agent wd. be most happy to defray the attendant charges. I had the pleasure of making Mr. Wright's acquaintance when out here in the "Vincennes". May I ask you to give him my kind remembrances. Any letter addressed

As far as possible, I have <u>named</u> the specimens - at least generically: to have attempted more with those from Amoy - though in many cases they appeared new - would have been presumptuous - removed as I am here from access to large herbaria and libraries. Each plant has a number attached - the same borne by the species in my own herbarium - so that whatever specimens I distribute always appear under the same numbers whenever & to whomsoever sent. I shall be much obliged if you will send me any corrections or names for the undetermined plants. and the indication of the number will suffice - I have sent a full set to Mr. Bentham. I trust also that you will not think me troublesome when I ask you if possible - to be so kind as to send me a parcel of <u>named</u> American plants - which might be forwarded direct to Hongkong - or to my agent in London - Mr. Franz Thimm, 3 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, who would readily pay any charges attending their transmission. It would be necessary of course to pack them carefully - and if I might venture to express a preference - I would say that I should particularly like U. S. <u>grasses</u> and <u>Cyperaceae</u> more especially <u>Carices</u>. also <u>Orchideae</u>, <u>Cupuliferae</u>, (<u>Quercus</u> above all) <u>Umbelliferae</u> - and any genera which possessed representatives in China or Japan - <u>Hypericum</u>, <u>Euphorbia</u>, <u>Caryophylleae</u>, Polygala, <u>Rosa</u>, <u>Lonicera</u>, Cruciferae are especially my favorites. I make no apology for preferring this request, as I am sure as <u>a</u> botanist, you will be aware how invaluable authentically named specimens are to a worker isolated as I am, and as <u>the</u> botanist par excellence

either to the care of Mr. Thiman,
or direct, thus:—

Dr. H. F. Hance,
Hongkong,
China.

would be sure to reach me
safely.

Pray believe me to be,
Dear Sir,
Very faithfully Yours
H. F. Hance

Prof. Asa Gray,
Harvard University,
Cambridge,
Massachusetts.